recommendations of the Expert Committee have been deliberated at length. The legislative provisions under Information Technology Act, 2000 related to cyber crime are being further strengthened. Some of the cyber crimes like 'Identity Theft', 'Cheating by Personation', Violation of privacy' which were not covered in the Information Technology Act, 2000 are now being proposed to be covered.

Waiting list of Telephone Applicants in Bihar

†1667. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the waiting list of the applicants desirous of having telephone connection is continuously increasing in Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that the applicant/consumer are unnecessarily harassed at the lower level in the instalation of the telephone connection and even after waiting for months/years they do not get telephone installation facility; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take for the speedy disposal of the waiting list, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) No, Sir. The waiting list of the applicants desirous of having telephone connection is decreasing in Bihar for the last three years as shown below:

As on	Waiting list in Numbers
31-03-2004	112465
31-03-2005	96871
31-03-2006	77500

(b) No, Sir. The question of harassment does not arise in this competitive environment.

(c) The following are few steps to clear the waiting list:

(i) BSNL has relaxed the norms for laying outdoor cables from 2.5.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

kms to 5.0 kms from the nearest telephone exchange for provision of telephone connections where such demands exist.

(ii) BSNL has signed an agreement with USOF (Universal Service Obligation Fund) of DoT in November 2004 for providing VPT (Village Public Telephones) facilities to the left out undisputed revenue villages having population more than 100 progressively by November 2007. As on June, 30, 2006, 38,475 VPTs have been provided by BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) out of the total number of 41.077 villages in Bihar.

(iii) Most of the demands for telephone connections are from scattered and far flung rural areas where provision of telephone connection are not feasible on wireline due to techno-economic reason. To overcome these shortcomings, BSNL has planned a large WLL network to cover all the SDCAs (Short Distance Charging Areas) in the country including Bihar for provision of telephone connection in remote rural areas. As on June, 30, 2006, all the 104 SDCAs of Bihar have been covered by WLL (Wireless in Local Loop). Moreover, under the umbrella coverage, BSNL has planned to provide three BTSs (Base Terminal Stations) per SDCAs, which will facilitate to provide telephone connections almost on demand.

(iv) BSNL has planned to cover all the villages having population more than 5000 by cellular mobile services. As on June, 30, 2006,1209 villages have been covered by mobile services out of the total number of 3186 villages having population more than 5000 in Bihar.

In addition BSNL is deploying mobile network in all the National and State Highway, Railway routes and Piligrim Centres in Bihar. Due to these coverages by mobile services many villages are getting incidental coverage of cellular service. As on June, 30, 2006, 10013 villages in Bihar are getting such incidental coverage by mobile service.

3G Spectrum Allocation

1668. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:—

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has sought views of stakeholders on the contentious issue of 3G spectrum allocation and pricing;